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Our File No. 9281-4747  
Client Reference No. N US03002

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Naoya Hasegawa et al. )  
Serial No. To Be Assigned )  
Filing Date: Herewith )  
For: Spin-Valve Magnetoresistive Element )  
Having Fixed Magnetic Layer of )  
Epitaxial Laminate Including Magnetic )  
Layer and Nonmagnetic Layer )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicants hereby submit references A1-A3 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed herewith.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2002-94141 discloses an adjacent layer aligned with a fixed magnetic layer (epitaxial growth).

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication Nos. 2000-20926 and 2000-113418 disclose a known technique on the structure of a self-fixed magnetic layer.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(b). Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest these references as prior art against the present application, and Applicants do not believe that the disclosure of these references, even if finally determined to be prior art, anticipates Applicants' invention or that these references make Applicants' invention obvious.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of these documents and make them of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO.	CASE NO.
	To be Assigned	9281-4747
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
	Herewith.	
APPLICANT(S): Naoya Hasegawa et al.		

REFERENCE DESIGNATION		U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	A1	2002-94141	03/2002	Japan		X	
	A2	2000-20926	01/2000	Japan		X	
	A3	2000-113418	04/2000	Japan		X	

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)					

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.